

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE— CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST: THEIR MEMORIES, OUR LEGACY

### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 1998*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was honored last Thursday, April 23 to participate in the National Civic Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance, the United State's annual national Holocaust memorial service. The theme of this year's commemoration was "Children of the Holocaust: Their Memories, Our Legacy."

The moving ceremony began with a processional and the presentation of the flags of the United States Army Divisions that liberated concentration camps. Following the Presentation of the Colors and the National Anthem, Benjamin Meed, Chairperson of the Days of Remembrance Committee made opening remarks recalling the horror he felt as a child in hiding in Warsaw as other Jewish children in the Warsaw ghetto were brutally burned to death. His Excellency Eliahu Ben Elissar, the Ambassador of Israel to the United States, remarked upon the legacy of the Holocaust from the perspective of the State of Israel's 50th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I was deeply touched by the beautiful voice of Staff Sergeant Beverly Benda, accompanied by the U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own). Sergeant Benda sang "Oyfn Pripeshik" (At the Fireplace), a song used in hidden ghetto classrooms to teach children the alphabet. The translation of the end of the song reads:

"When you grow older you will understand that this alphabet contains the tears and the weeping of our people. When you grow weary and burdened with exile, you will find comfort and strength within this Jewish Alphabet."

Miles Lerman and Ruth Mandel, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, noted the role of the United States Holocaust Memorial in allowing new generations of Americans to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust—the first step in understanding how it occurred and how we can prevent it from ever happening again. The keynote address by Yale University President Richard C. Levin elaborated on the theme of remembrance as the key to understanding. Dan Napolitano, a teacher at Georgetown Preparatory School, related how his experience as a student and teacher of the Holocaust and the history of anti-Semitism have reshaped his view of himself as a Catholic, a Christian, and a member of the human race.

As Josef Hapli and Rebecca Levy read heartbreaking excerpts from Children's Diaries of the Holocaust, pairs of Holocaust Survivors and Members of Congress lit memorial candles. I was honored to light the last candle with my constituent Alex Mutz, a survivor of

three ghettos and five concentration camps. Others lighting candles of remembrance were Senator ARLEN SPECTER and Betty Grossman Goodfriend; Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk; Representative CHRISTOPHER CANNON and Charlene Perlmutter Schiff; Representative CAROLYN MALONEY; and Representative JIM KOLBE and George S. Pick. Tiffany Nickels of Romani heritage placed a rose among the candles to memorialize the fate of the Roma and Sinti murdered by the Nazis.

The Remembrance Program concluded with the singing of the service for the dead, "El Moleh Rachamim," and the Hymn of the Partisans by Cantor Alberto Mizrahi and the recitation of the "Kaddish" led by Sigmund Strohlichtz.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairperson Benjamin Meed for giving me the privilege to play a small role in this remembrance program. It is an experience I will always remember and treasure. I ask all my colleagues to take this occasion to remember the tragedy of the Holocaust and to ensure that our children and our children's children learn about it, so that we can all work together to ensure that it will never happen again.

## JUDICIAL REFORM ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Delahunt-Boehlert amendment. Let me say first, I believe judicial activism is a problem. I believe some judges overstep their judicial bounds. I believe some judges exercise poor judgment in formulating judicial plans forcing states and localities to comply with state and federal laws.

I believe in lowering taxes. I believe in H.J. Res. 111, the Tax Limitation Amendment, which sadly was voted down yesterday. I believe judges should not be able to direct states and localities to raise taxes. The Delahunt-Boehlert Amendment does not change this aspect of H.R. 1252.

I believe the government and private citizens should be treated equally before the law. H.R. 1252 exempts states and local governments from complying with judicial orders that "necessarily require" raising taxes no matter how egregiously the government violated the law. A private citizen who violates those same laws has to pay the penalty. Just about every federal law, whether its an environmental law, a civil rights law or a labor law carries penalties with it that could "necessarily require" a government violator to raise taxes to pay for.

If Congress thinks those penalties are too high, then lets lower them, but lets not give states free reign to violate either their own laws or federal laws just because the penalty may be costly. The Delahunt-Boehlert amendment strikes this "necessarily require" clause

because state and federal laws must be enforced whether the violator is a state, locality, or private citizen.

I urge you to support the Delahunt-Boehlert amendment.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BELLA ABZUG

SPEECH OF

### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the tribute to the Honorable Bella Abzug, a woman who has given the Congress—and people throughout the world—a legacy of which to be proud.

Bella's legacy is one of caring and concern, dedication and determination, and audacity—in the best sense of the word—and accomplishment. At the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing, Bella said that she "always believed that women will change the nature of power rather than power changing the nature of women."

Bella cared about what happened nationwide and worldwide to those often considered the "underclass." She was especially concerned about ensuring the rights of women, minorities, and people in need. She dedicated her lifetime determined to help improve lives and help empower people with little power.

She had the audacity early in her career as a lawyer to don a hat so that she would be viewed as a woman working in a profession and not in the stereotypic role for women—as staff support.

She had the audacity to want to be the first Jewish woman elected to Congress, the audacity to want to be the first person elected to Congress on a women's rights and peace platform, and the audacity to "tell it like it is."

She had the determination to make things happen, and she accomplished a lot—such as: the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, founding the National Women's Political Caucus to help other women become legislators, coming very close to passing the Equal Rights Amendment. As a pioneer in the women's rights movement, she fostered generations of female leaders.

It is in large part because of Bella's caring, concern, dedication, determination, and audacity that my sisters and I became the "Class of 1992 in the 'Year of the Woman'" here in the Congress.

She championed important issues and left a legacy for a better life. Legacies are important because of what they inspire other people to accomplish. However, these people must first hear about these legacies.

To my astonishment and dismay, I spoke recently with several younger women who are not familiar with the name "Bella Abzug" as well as the names of other important human rights advocates. Although these young people have reaped the benefits of their accomplishments.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

We must inform the generations who come after us and help them recognize, appreciate, and remember the people and the work that paved their way. This is how we can preserve our history and pass on the important and wonderful legacies left by such special people as Bella Abzug.

# NOTING THE PASSING OF MARY STRASSMEYER

## HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 1998*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, in my Congressional District, we are mourning the passing of an outstanding individual and journalist. Mary Strassmeyer died on April 20, 1998. Before retiring from the Plain Dealer newspaper, her "Mary, Mary" column provided a wealth of information about Northeast Ohio's social events, people and other items of interest.

Mary Strassmeyer began her career as a reporter for the Cleveland News in 1956. Four years later, she came to the Plain Dealer, become Society Editor in 1965. For 21 years, readers were entertained and informed through her "Mary, Mary" column. She was an exceptional journalist whose dedication was unsurpassed. During her lifetime, she was the recipient of numerous awards, including being named one of the best society editors in the country. She was also inducted into the Press Club of Cleveland's Journalism Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, throughout my congressional career, I enjoyed a close association with Mary Strassmeyer. She was a remarkable woman whom I admired and respected. I could always count on her coverage of events throughout my Congressional District, and I always looked forward to reading "Mary, Mary" for other tidbits of information. I am pleased that the Wednesday, April 22, 1998, edition of the Plain Dealer includes an article on the life and career of Mary Strassmeyer. In her memory, I include this article in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I extend my sympathy to Alex Machaskee and Mary's colleagues at the Plain Dealer, her family and many friends. We are saddened at her passing and she will never be forgotten.

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Apr. 22, 1998]

### MARY STRASSMEYER DEAD AT 68

SHE WAS A HARD-WORKING JOURNALIST WHO LOVED HER TOWN, HER NEWSPAPER AND WRITING HER COLUMN

(By Alana Baranick)

Mary Strassmeyer, retired Plain Dealer reporter who Mary, Mary column was an encyclopedia of people and places in Greater Cleveland, died of complications from diabetes Monday at Deaconess Hospital. She was 68.

She covered Cleveland's high society for 32 years and moved easily among British royals, Hollywood and Broadway celebrities and the Washington elite.

For 21 of those years, Strassmeyer wrote a column full of information about people, places and happenings in Northeast Ohio and beyond. She often included announcements about fund-raising functions for nonprofit organizations.

"Many charities and civic organizations benefited from a kind word in Mary's col-

umn," Plain Dealer President and Publisher Alex Machaskee said. "Mary Strassmeyer was an excellent journalist, and she also was a very good friend. She has a great sense of humor and enjoyed life to the fullest. I will miss her warmth and honesty."

Honesty was her trademark.

"Mary was to the print media as Dorothy Fuldheim was to TV," said Sam Miller, co-chairman of Forest City Enterprises. "She was a high-class lady. She never broke her word. When she said 'off the record,' it was off the record. It just shows you can be a decent human being and be a first-class journalist at the same time."

Strassmeyer did not kowtow to her subjects, no matter how much power they wielded. She was known for her dry wit and her take-no-prisoners approach.

She had a bemused affection for the "swells," as she called socially prominent folks, and reported stories as truthfully as she saw them.

She didn't mince words with people who were trying to get items in her society column, often telling them in a brusque voice, "You're going to have to do better than that."

Strassmeyer made a beachhead in The Plain Dealer newsroom when it was virtually devoid of women. She did it by exuding toughness on her beat and with her male colleagues.

Later, her desk was always covered and surrounded with roses, carnations and other flowers and plants, which came as thank-you gifts from people and organizations mentioned in her column.

Strassmeyer was a hard worker who loved her town, her newspaper and writing her column. She reluctantly retired in July because of poor health.

Her home in the Old Brooklyn section of Cleveland was on the same street as the house in which she was raised. For less than two years in the 1960s, she tried suburban living in Bay Village, but soon grew homesick for her hometown.

She graduated in 1951 from Notre Dame College in South Euclid, where she majored in English and history. She did post-graduate work in history at Toledo University.

In 1956, Strassmeyer joined the Cleveland News as a reporter. She was an education writer when the News closed in 1960 and she joined The Plain Dealer. She wrote features and travel stories and served as beauty editor before becoming the society editor in 1965.

While composing beauty columns for teens, Strassmeyer collaborated with a promotion department artist, Jeanne Harris, on a one-panel cartoon called, "Sneakers" which featured helpful hints on beauty, grooming and etiquette for teenagers.

The cartoon, which first appeared in The Plain Dealer in 1964, was soon syndicated internationally through King Features. In 1966, it was added to a display of American comics at the Smithsonian Institution.

She later wrote the words to photographer Bill Wynne's pictures for the book, "Coco, The Special Delivery Dog."

In 1976, Strassmeyer began writing a society column, called "Today," which was the forerunner of "Mary, Mary."

She added broadcast media work to her resume in 1979. For 10 years, she had a weekly radio show, first on WCLV-FM and later on WERE-AM. She also had a show on WKYC Channel 3 for a short time.

Strassmeyer earned a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law of Cleveland State University in 1981 and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1983. Since then, she maintained her own practice.

She received numerous accolades for her work as a journalist. In 1969, Charlotte Curtis of the New York Times named her one of

the seven best society editors in the country. In 1982, "Mary, Mary" was described as one of the "wittiest, best written of all American gossip columns, filled with double entendres and literary references" in a Town & Country magazine article.

In 1994, she was inducted into the Press Club of Cleveland's Journalism Hall of Fame.

The Intown Club honored her in 1976 for her contributions to civic and cultural projects. Ten years later she became the first recipient of the WomenSpace media award for her support of women's issues and organizations.

Strassmeyer was the founder and first president of the Society of American Social Scribes. She was a member of Theta Sigma Phi, now known as Women in Communications, the Ohio Newspaper Women's Association and the Cleveland Play House Club.

She also belonged to Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church and Kappa Gamma Pi, a national honorary society for Catholic women's college graduates. She volunteered with Catholic Charities.

She was a world traveler, belonged to numerous travel organizations and co-owned Gerry's International Travel Agency since 1991.

"Anytime she got a vacation, she was off to Singapore or more exotic places," said Plain Dealer Reporter William F. Miller. "She could get along with virtually anyone."

Retired Plain Dealer Reporter Pauline Thoma said, "She was one of the world's best friends."

Strassmeyer is survived by a sister, Joan Palus of Parma.

## TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE ST. EDMUND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join all my friends and colleagues in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the St. Edmund Elementary School. This wonderful school has been serving the community of Brooklyn, NY faithfully for 75 years, and is well deserving of recognition and praise.

On September 17, 1923 seventeen months after the founding pastor, Rev. Denis A. Maloney, celebrated the first Mass for the people of the St. Edmund Parish, a new church and school building were ready to serve the people of its community. St. Edmund is committed to the development of a Christian community; The Dominican Sisters of Sparkhill made sure that the children would receive a proper education. Under their leadership the school flourished and there was a need for new classrooms. In 1931, during the Great Depression, the school was able to raise \$33,000 for new classrooms. This kind of support shows just how much the school meant to the community. Also, St. Edmund was one of the first Catholic schools to realize the need for women to have the opportunity for a full four year Catholic High School Education. Now as they celebrate the 75th Anniversary of St. Edmund Elementary School nearly four hundred boys and girls continue to celebrate a solid education in this parish school. Today the community's children continue to study in a faith filled community as they are given the tools needed to enter the new millennium.

For years, families have known this school as a living monument in the community, making